



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
March 13, 2012

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:07 p.m. by Mayor Van Nostran in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Vice Mayor Diane DuBois
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Todd Rogers
Council Member Jeff Wood

CIP PROJECTS FOR FY 2012-2013

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, displayed slides and reviewed the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. She provided an overview on the usage, maintenance and preservation challenges of various City facilities.

Diane Perkin, Director of Administrative Services, detailed the funding sources for capital projects in prior years and noted the impacts of AB 26 such as the loss of Agency interest payments of \$1 million per year; the impact to City operations by \$2 million; and the usurping of structural surplus, which, in the past, had allowed the City to invest in its infrastructure, facilities and parks. She added that Community Development Block Grant funds had been reduced over the past two years resulting in a loss of \$450,000 for capital improvements. Over the past five years, the structural surplus and CDBG funds had paid \$6 million for parks and structures and would therefore be most impacted by the loss of such funds. Separate funding sources, such as Measure R and Prop C funds, would allow many street-related projects to continue, while water-related capital improvements were funded through the water rate structure. However, because water projects were very capital intensive, the cost to cover such improvements would require increases in the water rate charged to Lakewood customers.

Ms. Rapp explained that projects scheduled at the Centre were intended to keep the facility fresh and well maintained to enhance revenue generated there. She highlighted some of the current fiscal year's completed projects, projects that were underway, unanticipated projects and projects which were on hold at the Centre as well as at various City facilities.

She reported on the current status of the dog park development noting that the budget of \$75,000 would be for design only and did not include the estimated \$700,000 in construction costs and over \$22,000 annually in operating expenses and lease fees. Ms. Rapp further stated that while Southern California Edison currently agreed to the dog park use on its property, that could change in the future. She added that another option involved negotiating the lease of the property for the future development of the dog park which would include annual rent and maintenance costs with approximately \$4,500 for weed control alone.

CIP PROJECTS FOR FY 2012-2013 - Continued

While he noted being an advocate for the development of a dog park, Mayor Van Nostran proposed putting the project on hold due to the uncertainty of the financial impacts of the elimination of redevelopment. He expressed reluctance at such a large expenditure that could be spent elsewhere on maintenance and preservation types of projects.

Council Member Croft suggested exploring other options such as locking in an agreement with Edison, some type of co-operative arrangement or community funding citing that there were few opportunities to add to the City's inventory of recreational space and that it took some time for Edison to agree to a dog park use.

Council Member Wood stated that while he supported the concept of a dog park, given the current financial economy he was also in favor of deferring development after having heard from residents, even dog owners, that general fund monies should not be spent on such a project. He expressed interest in seeing a fee structure for park facility usage.

Ms. Rapp provided a brief history of the Mayfair Park pool illustrating the significant increases in costs for a new fiberglass liner each time it had been replaced. She indicated that despite having budgeted \$100,000 for a comprehensive study, the lack of funding for construction, which would include a new liner, ADA improvements and any other changes required to comply with current codes, was cause for hesitation to proceed.

Responding to Vice Mayor DuBois' inquiries, Lisa Litzinger, Director of Recreation and Community Services, stated that both pools had been operating at capacity and that closing one of the pools would have a significant impact to the swim classes and recreational uses. She further replied that with regard to obtaining financial assistance, there were no funds currently available for pools, which were specifically excluded under some Federal grants.

June Anderson, Senior Project Manager, responded to Mayor Van Nostran's question by itemizing some of the upgrades required to meet new codes such as the overflow gutter requiring a level lip, inadequate steps/risers, worn down pool deck surfaces, backwash piping, and tile work.

Council Member Rogers described the pool as a community jewel and acknowledged the necessity to complete the study in order to determine a long term strategy.

Council Member Croft concurred that it would be worthwhile to conduct the analysis to help set priorities and believed that appealing to the community for assistance would be valuable.

Ms. Rapp continued the presentation by enumerating some of the possible facility projects, public right-of-way projects and water system projects. She explained that preserving and maintaining the existing infrastructure had been their biggest responsibility and that due to very little grant funding being available and some being very limited in application, very few capital projects were proposed for the next fiscal year.

CIP PROJECTS FOR FY 2012-2013 - Continued

Council Member Croft thanked staff for such a comprehensive presentation noting that it helped to identify the existing challenges. He stated he looked forward to further updates on the negotiations with Edison and with the other projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Van Nostran adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Josefina Semense-Mayberry, CMC
Deputy City Clerk